

1 **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

2 **Listing of Claims:**

3 What is claimed, is

4 1. (currently amended) A network ~~Network~~ traffic control unit, comprising:

- 5 • a filter unit ~~(51)~~ for intercepting messages
- 6 • relating to peer-to-peer application,
- 7 • from a network line ~~(3)~~,
- 8 • irrespective of destination,
- 9 • a control logic ~~(52)~~ that is configured for managing a request represented by an intercepted
- 10 message subject to its content and subject to peering specific knowledge the network traffic
- 11 control unit ~~(5)~~ provides,
- 12 • which request to be managed is a connect request issued from a peer node and directed to
- 13 another peer node.

14 2. (currently amended) A network ~~Network~~ traffic control unit according to claim 1,

15 wherein the network traffic control unit ~~(5)~~ is prepared to communicate according to a

16 peer-to-peer application protocol.

17 3. (currently amended) A network ~~Network~~ traffic control unit according to claim 2,

18 wherein the network traffic control unit ~~(5)~~ is prepared to apply the peer-to-peer application

19 protocol for managing connect requests.

20 4. (currently amended) A network ~~Network~~ traffic control unit according to ~~any one of the claims~~

21 claim 1 to 3, wherein the network traffic control unit ~~(5)~~ is prepared to communicate according to

22 a protocol different to the peer-to-peer application protocol.

1 5. (currently amended) A network ~~Network~~ traffic control unit according to claim 4,  
2 wherein the network traffic control unit ~~(5)~~ is prepared to apply the protocol different to the  
3 peer-to-peer application protocol for managing query requests.

4 6. (currently amended) A network ~~Network~~ traffic control unit according to claim 1 ~~any one of~~  
5 ~~the preceding claims~~, wherein the peering specific knowledge comprises information on  
6 peer-to-peer connections the network traffic control unit ~~(5)~~ is currently aware of.

7 7. (currently amended) A network ~~Network~~ traffic control unit according to claim 1 ~~any one of~~  
8 ~~the preceding claims~~, wherein the peering specific knowledge comprises information on peer  
9 nodes associated to the network traffic control unit ~~(5)~~.

10 8. (currently amended) A network ~~Network~~ traffic control unit according to claim 1 ~~any one of~~  
11 ~~the preceding claims~~, wherein the peering specific knowledge comprises an index that allocates  
12 keys representing data files for download to network traffic control units.

13 9. (currently amended) A network ~~Network~~ traffic control unit according to claim 1 ~~any one of~~  
14 ~~the preceding claims~~, wherein the peering specific knowledge comprises an index that allocates  
15 peer nodes to keys representing data files for download.

16 10. (currently amended) A network ~~Network~~ traffic control unit according to claim 1 ~~any one of~~  
17 ~~the preceding claims~~, wherein the control logic ~~(53)~~ is configured for implementing a set of rules  
18 for deriving keys from intercepted query requests.

19 11. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ for controlling traffic on a network, comprising:  
20 • receiving messages related to peer-to-peer application, intercepted by a filter unit from a  
21 network line ~~(3)~~, irrespective of the messages' destination,  
22 • managing a request represented by an intercepted message subject to its content and subject  
23 to peering specific information,

- wherein the request to be managed is a connect request issued from a peer node and directed to another peer node.

12. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 11, comprising dropping the intercepted message.

13. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 12, wherein managing the connect request is subject to existing connections the network traffic control unit is aware of.

14. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 13, wherein no message is sent to the addressee of the intercepted connect request when a connection is already established that can serve or be extended to serve the requesting peer node.

15. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to ~~any one of the claims~~ claim 12 to 14, comprising sending a connect request to the originator of the intercepted connect request in response to the intercepted connect request.

16. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 12, 13 or 15, comprising sending a connect request to the addressee of the intercepted connect request.

17. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 12, 13 or 15, comprising sending a connect request to the addressee of the intercepted connect request pretending the originator of the intercepted connect request is sending the connect request.

18. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 12 to 15, comprising sending a connect request to a peer node other than the addressee of the intercepted connect request.

- 1 19. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 12 to 15,  
2 comprising  
3 sending a connect request to another network traffic control unit ~~(5)~~.
- 4 20. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 15 in combination with ~~any one of~~  
5 ~~the claims~~ claim 16 to 19, sending the connect request to another party than the originator of the  
6 intercepted connect request once the originator has accepted the connect request from the  
7 network traffic control unit directed to the originator.
- 8 21. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim  
9 ~~11 to 20~~, wherein a request to be managed is a data file query issued by a peer node.
- 10 22. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 21,  
11 wherein managing the query request is subject to an index that allocates keys representing data  
12 files for download to network traffic control units.
- 13 23. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 21 ~~or claim 22~~,  
14 wherein managing the query request is subject to an index that allocates peer nodes to keys.
- 15 24. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to ~~any one of the claims~~ claim 21 to 23,  
16 comprising deriving one or more keys from the content of the query request.
- 17 25. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 24, comprising  
18 directing a request to one or more remote network traffic control units that are allocated to the  
19 derived keys according to the key - network traffic control unit index.
- 20 26. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 25, comprising  
21 receiving a list of peer nodes that are allocated to the keys, from the remote network traffic  
22 control unit.

1 27. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 26, comprising  
2 sending a hit message to the querying peer node.

3 28. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim  
4 ~~11 to 27~~, comprising:

- 5 • administering a key - peer node index for some keys, and
- 6 • providing other network traffic control units on request with the knowledge which peer nodes
- 7 are allocated to a requested key according to the key - peer node index.

8 29. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 28,  
9 wherein administering the key - peer node index comprises removals of entries.

10 30. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim  
11 ~~11 to 29~~, comprising:

- 12 • monitoring hit messages sent from an associated peer node,
- 13 • deriving one or more keys from the content of a hit message,
- 14 • allocating the sending peer node to the derived keys, and
- 15 • storing the key - peer node relation in a key - peer node index.

16 31. (currently amended) A network comprising:

- 17 • at least one group ~~(1, 2, 4)~~ of peer nodes,
- 18 • a network line ~~(3)~~ serving as ingress/egress line for this peer ~~said at least one group (1, 2, 4)~~,
- 19 and
- 20 • a network traffic control unit ~~(5)~~ according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 10~~,
- 21 intercepting messages from the network line.

22 32. (currently amended) A computer program element comprising computer program code  
23 which, when loaded in a processor unit of a network traffic control unit, configures the processor  
24 unit for performing a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 11 ~~to 30~~.